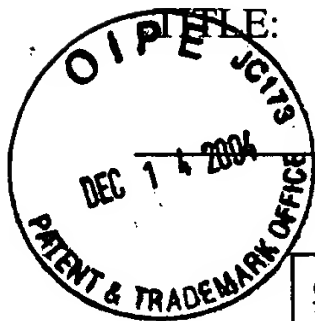


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: D.M. Shackelford                      Examiner: Gilberto Barron, Jr.  
Serial No.: 09/409,617                      Group Art Unit: 2132  
Filed: October 1, 1999                      Docket No.: TUC919990029US1  
TITLE: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PROGRAM FOR DISTRIBUTING SOFTWARE  
BETWEEN COMPUTER SYSTEMS



CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 9, 2004

David W. Victor

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the non-final office action dated August 9, 2004 ("Fourth Office Action"), in which the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-40 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) by cited art. Applicants have amended certain claims and submit that the pending claims, including amended claims, are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed below.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 13.